



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

One Winter Street – 5th Floor; Boston, MA 02108

Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at:

mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers

or at the Statehouse Archives at : <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-05-29

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP COVID-19 Information
Distribution of Cloth Face Masks and Round #2 Survey
MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
2. Cross Connection Update
3. Source Water Protection - Check Trail Apps
4. EPA Adds PFAS to Toxics Release Inventory Reporting
5. EPA's Information on Carbon Dioxide Supplies
6. Be Prepared for Hurricane Season
7. Training

MassDEP COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Sign-up for the state messaging tool called "AlertsMA" which sends real-time notifications of COVID-19 alerts. To subscribe to these real-time notifications text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

Masks and Face Coverings: On May 1, Governor Baker issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public situations when appropriate social distancing measures are not possible. [Order](#) | [Guidance](#)

Distribution of Cloth Face Masks and Round #2 Survey

Don't miss this opportunity! More reusable cloth (non-N95) masks have arrived from EPA/FEMA for public water suppliers and wastewater operators, and MassDEP is preparing to distribute them.

All public water suppliers, wastewater systems, and contract operators are eligible to receive masks, even if they recently received masks from MassDEP during the first distribution.

If you are interested, please have a representative of your facility or contract operating firm fill out this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F27X7X>

Only one response is needed from each utility. **Deadline: Friday, June 5, 2020**

MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
- [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
- [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Drinking Water Operator license Extension Guidance during the public health emergency <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>
- Mass DEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information>
- Form to document non-compliance related to COVID-19 <https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency>

MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is holding weekly Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. You may also email questions to jpederson@masswaterworks.org by noon on Tuesday.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

By Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

With Computer Audio: <https://zoom.us/j/716180953> (please turn your video off!)

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: **550 814 507**

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/anAJCjR7G>

Cross Connection Update

Have you been looking for the form to document any failure to comply as a result of COVID-19 Declared Emergency mentioned in the FAQ below? The form is located at

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency/download>.

Question from FAQ located at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-covid-19-faqs-for-public-water-suppliers-o/download>

Question (Inspections/Repairs12): Will there be any special provisions for 2020 ASR regarding cross connection testing (i.e. special tracking codes to denote lack of access/closures due to COVID-

19). Answer MassDEP will provide a form for Public Water Supplier (PWS) to document any noncompliance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. **This form will be available by May 20, 2020.** At a minimum, PWSs must prove that there has not been an intentional lapse in compliance; but that noncompliance was a result of issues resulting from COVID-19, such as staffing or contracting and laboratory resources outside of the facilities' control. In advance of the availability of the form, a PWS may document its action by responding to the questions listed below and submitting the documentation to its MassDEP Regional Drinking Water Program or to program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: [Region] Covid-19 non-compliance justification.

The justification documentation must include the following information:

1. Date of Non-compliance
2. Nature of noncompliance: The violation as to which the PWS failed to monitor, report, test, or sample.
3. Identify how COVID-19 was the cause of the noncompliance
4. Steps taken to minimize the effects and duration of noncompliance
5. Additional actions taken in response
6. Was return to compliance as soon as possible? Please explain.
7. If return to compliance was delayed or not possible, please explain and include the anticipated needed duration for compliance.

Source Water Protection - Check Trail Apps

Recently Matt Smith, Treatment Facility Superintendent for the Holyoke Water Works, discovered that a reservoir in the PWS was mapped on a popular hiking application and that the mapping system's GPS led hikers to the reservoir. Hikers were ignoring signs and trespassing on water supply land. Matt reached out to the app company and explained that land owned by the Holyoke Water Works protects the drinking water supply and is restricted for public access.

Matt agreed to share his communication to/from the trails app company and his contact information at the Holyoke Water Works in this issue of Drinking Water Updates so that PWS and others can reach out to him to discuss how to identify and address trespass issues like this one. Thank you, Matt!

Letter From Matt to the AllTrails App comment section:

To whom this may concern, my name is Matt Smith and I am the superintendent of reservoirs for the Holyoke Water Works in Holyoke, Massachusetts. We recently discovered that a map featured on your APP is guiding people onto our property which happens to be an active public drinking water reservoir. The trail is labeled Mclean Reservoir East Mountain Loop, and needs to be removed IMMEDIATELY!

The Mclean Reservoir is an active public drinking water reservoir for the City of Holyoke, any trespass onto watershed grounds is a violation of multiple MA laws including 310 CMR 22.0 and: MA general law part IV, Title 1, Section 123A.

(a) Whoever willfully trespasses upon any public source of water or public water supply facilities or land after having been forbidden to do so by a person who has lawful control of the water, facilities or

land, or an agent of such a person, whether directly or by notice posted on such water supply facility or land, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000.

(b) Whoever commits any offense described in subsection (a) with the intent to corrupt, pollute or defile such public source of water shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2 years or in state prison for not more than 5 years or by both such fine and imprisonment. Whoever is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment in state prison for not less than 5 years nor more than 10 years or by both such fine and imprisonment.

This map is a major problem for us and needs to be taken down immediately. I have attached a map with black lines indicating the section of trail that abuts our reservoir, this section of trail needs to be off of the map and the trail should not be labeled McLean Reservoir in any way. This is of highest priority and will be brought to the attention of MA Department of Environmental Protection.

Please respond back to me as soon as possible. You can reach me at 413-532-6778 or my 24hr cell 413-205-6164.

Thank You

Response from Staff at the AllTrails App to Matt

Hi Matt,

Thank you for reaching out and for notifying us of this issue. We have rerouted two trails within our database that traversed reservoir grounds. Please note, these changes may take a few days to update on all pages of AllTrails.

Our goal is that every trail on AllTrails has an accurate, hand-curated verified route. These verified routes are what our users are relying on for navigation when they use AllTrails. If there is any other specific trail on our site that you think has an error or needs an update, please send me the URL and we'll work with you to fix it ASAP.

Matt Smith can be reached at the Holyoke Water Works at smithm@holyoke.org or 413-532-6778. Please also contact your MassDEP Regional Office or program.director-dwp@mass.gov with questions.

EPA Adds PFAS to Toxics Release Inventory Reporting



On May 18, EPA finalized its rule to add 172 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) chemical reporting list under section

313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). These PFAS additions were mandated by the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) and became effective on January 1, 2020. Reporting for these PFAS will be due to EPA by July 1, 2021 for calendar year 2020 data, and EPA expects to release the raw reporting data by July 31, 2021.

In February 2020, [ASDWA submitted a joint letter of comment with ACWA and ECOS](#) on the advance notice of this proposed rulemaking that supported the addition of PFAS in TRI reporting.

For more information and to read the pre-publication of the rule, visit [EPA's website](#).

EPA's Information on Carbon Dioxide Supplies

Drinking water facilities that use CO₂ are not as prevalent in the northeast as they are in other parts of the country, thus there are relatively few food-grade CO₂ suppliers. Facilities that produce food-grade CO₂ often sell that CO₂ to a supplier that can process (e.g., purify, compress) and deliver the CO₂ to water utilities and other customers that need them. During this time of shortages, US EPA is providing information on food-grade CO₂ suppliers and producers in the event that water utilities need to identify alternative companies from which to purchase, pursuant to Section 1442(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. To view the resources that EPA has compiled please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/food-grade-co2-suppliers-and-producers>

Hurricane Season

NOAA Predicts Busy Atlantic Hurricane Season, Near or Below-Normal Central Pacific Hurricane Season

In just released forecasts, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane season and a near or below-normal Central Pacific Hurricane season for this year. [NOAA's Atlantic Hurricane season forecast](#) predicts there will be 13-19 named storms, of which 6-10 will be hurricanes and 3-6 will be major hurricanes. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes. [The Central Pacific Hurricane season forecast](#) anticipates 2-6 tropical cyclones. A normal season has 4-5 tropical cyclones. Both outlooks are meant as general guides for overall seasonal hurricane activity and are not intended as landfall forecasts. *Regardless of the anticipated activity, NOAA emphasizes that hurricane preparedness is critically important every year. It also encourages adapting hurricane preparedness plans and actions with COVID-19 in mind, such as by referring to CDC and FEMA guidance.*



The Colorado State University's (CSU's) Tropical Meteorology Project [forecast for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season](#) also predicts above-normal activity for this year. It predicts there will be 16 named storms, 8 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes. Unlike the NOAA forecasts, this report predicts the likelihood of landfall, submitting that there is a 69 percent chance of a major hurricane making landfall somewhere on the entire U.S. coastline (including the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico). WaterISAC reported on this forecast in its [April 7 publication](#).

Training Calendar

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

or click here:  **YouTube**

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.
